

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

Jane Denker Graves
133 York Avenue
Saratoga Springs NY 12866-2533

As reported from the Albany International Airport, December's mean temperature was 30.9°F, 4.4° above normal. Sunshine averaged 43%, 4% above normal. There was 1.42" of rain, 1.51" below normal, with only 1.1" of snow. January averaged a normal 20.6°, with 43% sunshine, 4% below normal. Rain was 3.43", 1.07" above normal, with 31" of snow. February was a warm month, averaging 27.6°, 4.1° above normal, with 46% sunshine. Rain was measured at 2.83", 0.56" above normal, with 12.4" of snow.

The mild December delayed freeze-up and allowed many waterfowl to linger, providing good diversity on the early CBC's. Lingering land birds were also well represented on CBC's and at feeders. A very surprising Osprey was found on the Johnstown-Gloversville count. Marsh and Winter wrens, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers, Fox, Swamp and White-crowned sparrows were reported. Water bodies froze quickly after the 21st and by the 28th most rivers and lakes were frozen except for areas below dams and power stations.

Species diversity dropped sharply as extreme cold set in during early and mid-January. Wild food crops were generally poor and numbers of overwintering birds were way down. Species such as Horned Lark and American Tree Sparrow were reported only in small numbers, while Golden-Crowned Kinglets were practically nonexistent. However, Eastern Bluebirds were present in excellent numbers, and Black-capped Chickadees continued their irruption at Jenny Lake, with adult birds predominating. 88 individuals were banded during the period. The only winter finches present in good numbers were Common Redpolls. Several Hoary Redpoll sightings were reported; it is to be hoped that NYSARC reports were filed for all. A Gray Catbird overwintered in the vicinity of Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin's feeding station, being fed suet crumbs by the two after they noticed the bird picking up suet dropped under their woodpecker feeder. There was a very unusual sighting of a Yellow-rumped Warbler reported by Bob Yunick from the Vischer Ferry Power Station area on 3 Feb. In late February there was an abrupt thaw causing ice jams on rivers and flooding many meadows, which provided good waterfowl viewing opportunities.

The 124 species reported included 25 species of waterfowl, 12 species of hawks, 7 species of gulls, 7 species of owls, 5 species of sparrows, and 10 species of finches. Unusual birds not previously mentioned included Great Cormorant, Black-crowned Night -Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Tundra Swan, Thayer's Gull, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Bohemian Waxwing.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kenneth P. Able, Sue Adair, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Brad Bidwell (BBi), Bob Boehm (Bbo), Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Mark Fitzsimmons, Craig Fosdick, Laurie Freeman, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Denise Hilton Stoner, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN): William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Peter Nye, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Scott Stoner, Alison Van Keuren, Carol Whitby, Owen Whitby, Mark Woythal, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACCBC - Albany County CBC, 19 Dec; CBL - Coxsackie Boat Launch, GREE; CCCBC - Catskill-Coxsackie CBC, 21 Dec; ChCBC - Chatham CBC, 18 Dec; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; FPCBC - Fort Plain CBC, 2 Jan; FR

- Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HFCBC - Hudson Falls CBC, 19 Dec; GL - Galway Lake, SARA; HR - Hudson River; JGCBC - Johnstown-Gloversville CBC, 27 Dec; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NL - Nassau Lake, RENS; NR - Niskayuna RR Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; NWW - Niskayuna Wide Waters, SCHE; PP - Papscanee Preserve, RENS; RL - Round Lake, SARA; SCBC - Salem CBC, 29 Dec; ScCBC - Schenectady CBC, 18 Dec; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SRCBC - Southern Rensselaer CBC, 26 Dec; SSCBC - Saratoga Spa CBC, 18 Dec; TCBC - Troy CBC, 2 Jan; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; WR - Waterviet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 1 HFCBC.

Com. Loon: 1 RL 2 Dec; 1 SL 2 Dec; 4 Mechanicville 7 Dec; 2 ACCBC; 2 SSCBC; only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 WR 2, 5 Dec; 1 CCCBC; only reports.

Horned Grebe: 1 WR 5 Dec; only report.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 CCCBC; only report.

Great Cormorant: 1 Embough Bay 21 Dec (BC); 1 Kingston Point 11 Jan (RG); same individual?

Great Blue Heron: 50 on 9 CBCs; 6 Jan, 1 Feb reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 Embough Bay 21 Dec (BC).

Turkey Vulture: 1 Woodstock 7 Jan (RG); 1 Slingerlands 12 Jan (AV); 1 Helderberg Escarpment 29 Jan (MF); 1 Austerlitz 25 Feb (ADBC); 2 Schenectady 28 Feb (WL).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1 WR 16 Dec (WE); 1 ACCBC 19 Dec; probably same bird.

Snow Goose: 2957 on 7 CBCs, high count; 1865 TCBC; 2000-2500 remained on HR bt. Ft. Miller-Mechanicville thru 12 Jan.

Canada Goose: 11,432 SCBC; 6908 CCCBC.

Mute Swan: max 87 CCCBC; 2 pr NL 9, 26 Dec; 40 Cocksackie 21 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 43 NR 27 Feb (RY).

Wood Duck: 1 FtM 7 Dec; 3 on 2 CBCs; 1 GI 23 Jan (WE).

Gadwall: 18 on 5 CBCs.

Am. Wigeon: max 102 ACCBC; arr 2 pr Collins Creek 28 Feb (WL).

Am. Black Duck: 2345 on 11 CBCs; high count 494 CCCBC.

Mallard: 9126 on 11 CBCs; max 1681 SRCBC; 1631 SSCBC; 1581 FPCBC; 600+ FtM 14 Feb.

N. Shoveler: 1 TCBC, only report.

N. Pintail: 11 on 4 CBCs; 1 SI 30 Dec; 1 GI 23 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: 7 VF 5 Dec; 19 on 6 CBCs; max 13 ChCBC; 2 HR T Half Moon 27 Feb.

Canvasback: 14 on 7 CBCs; max 500 HR Germantown 16 Jan (CW, OW).

Redhead: 14 SSCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 lower MR 2 Jan (SA); 1 L4 Stillwater 30 Jan (WE); 3 HR Germantown 16 Jan (CW, OW).

Ring-necked Duck: 118 TR 1 Dec; 240 on 6 CBCs; 4 L4 Stillwater 23 Jan (WE); 3 Collins Creek 28 Feb (WL).

Greater Scaup: 90 SSCBC; 2 ScCBC; 1 L4 Stillwater 30 Jan; 12 Collins Creek 28 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 3 ACCBC; 35 SCBC; 1 SRCBC CW; only reports.

Oldsquaw: 1 FPCBC, only report.

Bufflehead: 7 Alcove Res 12 Dec; 97 on 5 CBCs; max 72 SSCBC; no reports after 1 Jan.

Com. Goldeneye: 1882 on 8 CBCs; max

1415 SSCBC; 160 L4 HR Stillwater 23 Jan.
Hooded Merganser: 134 TR 1 Dec (RY);
 282 on 8 CBCs; max 158 SSCBC; 4 HR L4
 Stillwater 23, 30 Jan; 3 HR T Half Moon
 27 Feb; 3 Collins Creek 28 Feb (WL).
Com. Merganser: high counts 210 TR 14
 Dec; 207 ACCBC; 270 ScCBC; 279 TCBC;
 100+ Collins Creek 28 Feb.
Red-breasted Merganser: 1 NWW 12
 Dec (RY); 1 ACCBC; 1 CCCBC; 1 GI 16
 Jan, 24 Feb.
Ruddy Duck: 12 TR 14 Dec; 20 NL 9 Dec;
 25 GL 113 Dec; max 179 ACCBC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 JGCBC.
Bald Eagle: 23 on 6 CBCs; 2 ad
 Conklingville Dam 28 Dec (LF); HR: 6 imm,
 1 ad above Ft. Miller; 10-15 bt Lock 1
 Waterford-Lock 5 Clark's Mills; at least 4 ad,
 6 imm bt. Albany-Hudson (PN); MR: 1 ad
 Rt. 160 Princetown 13 Feb (WE); 1 imm
 Burtonsville 24 Feb (Bbo, KB).
N. Harrier: 49 on 8 CBCs; 12 present FtE
 thru; 9 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 28 on 8 CBCs; 36
 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 24 on 9 CBCs; 36 reports
 of singles.
N. Goshawk: 3 ACCBC; 1 JGCBC; 1
 SCBC; 1 ScCBC; 1 SSCBC.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Gardner 6 Jan
 (RG); 1 Ballston Spa 8 Feb (BEN); only
 reports.
Red-tailed Hawk: 703 on 11 CBCs; max
 95 FPCBC; 83 ChCBC.
Rough-legged Hawk: 16 on 4 CBCs; 9
 FtE 14 Feb; 4 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb; 11
 reports of singles.
Am. Kestrel: 29 on 9 CBCs; 23 reports of
 singles.
Merlin: 1 Albany 4 Dec; 1 TCBC; 1
 Washington Pk. Albany 29 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 Waterford 11 Dec
 (BEN); 1 Castleton Bridge 13 Dec (RG); 1
 Schenectady Co. Public Library 13 Dec
 (WL); 1 SRCBC; ad pr at nest box Dunn
 Memorial Bridge 23 Dec (WL, RY); 1 over
 SUNYA 29 Dec (WE); 1 TCBC; 1 HR Rt. 113
 Easton 6 Jan (WE); 1 imm f Colonie 23 Jan
 (WE); 1 Schenectady 23 Feb (Rob Hayes to

BEN); 1 Cohoes 24 Feb (WL); 1 Dunn
 Memorial Bridge 27 Feb.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 1 FPCBC; 1 Jan
 ADBC, only reports.
Ruffed Grouse: 36 on 9 CBCs; 3 reports
 of singles.
Wild Turkey: high counts 152 ACCBC;
 102 ChCBC; 307 FPCBC.
Am. Coot: 100 SL 11 Dec (BP); 1 BCR 12
 Dec; 7 ACCBC; 1 SSCBC.
Ring-billed Gull: max 841 CCCBC; 258
 ACCBC.
Herring Gull: max 2357 CCCBC; 1185
 TCBC; 551 ACCBC; 800 MR Colonie 8
 Jan.
THAYER'S GULL: 1 ad Crescent 4 Dec
 (KPA).
Iceland Gull: 1 1st yr. Coxsackie 12 Dec;
 1 CCCBC; 1 JGCBC; 2 TCBC; 1 1st yr MR
 Colonie 8, 23 Jan; 2 Coxsackie 15 Jan. 1
 3rd basic MR Colonie 30 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 VF 5 Dec
 (WE); 1 ad Colonie landfill 30 Dec (WL,
 RY); 1 Crescent 6 Jan (RB); 1 2nd yr HR
 Waterford 16 Jan (WE); 1 VF 10 Feb
 (WE).
Glaucous Gull: 1 Coxsackie 11-12 Dec
 (RG); 1 Crescent 6 Jan (RB); 1 imm
 Coxsackie 11, 15 Jan (RG); 1 1st yr
 Crescent 19 Jan (RB); 1 1st yr. MR
 Colonie 30 Jan (WE).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 604
 TCBC; 310 MR Colonie 30 Jan.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS
Rock Dove: high counts 1061 FPCBC;
 1449 TCBC; 726 ScCBC.
Mourning Dove: high counts 894 TCBC;
 683 FPCBC.
E. Screech-Owl: 28 on 9 CBCs; 1 FR 1
 Jan; 1 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb; 1 Taghkanic
 16 Feb.
Great Horned Owl: 26 on 7 CBCs; max
 12 FPCBC; 14 other reports.
Snowy Owl: 1 19, 24 Feb Claverack (fide BC).
Barred Owl: 1 Hague 4 Dec; 10 on 6
 CBCs; 5 Jan, 1 Feb reports.
Long-eared Owl: 1 FOCBC; 1 Gallupville
 6 Jan (Bbo, KB); 1 Claverack 6 Jan (BC).
Short-eared Owl: 10 FtE 9 Jan (SS); 10 on 5
 CBCs; 1 Pangburn Rd. T Rotterdam 11-12 Jan

(MW); 14 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb (EA, AM).
N. Saw-Whet Owl: 2 FPCBC; 1 recently dead ScCBC; no other reports.
Belted Kingfisher: 45 on 6 CBCs; max 15 TCBC; 4 Jan, 4 Feb reports.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 106 on 11 CBCs, high count 33 ChCBC; 30 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 CCCBC; 1 ChCBC; 2 ScCBC; 1 Guilderland 29 Dec (WE); 1 Ghent 17 Jan (CW, OW).
Downy Woodpecker: 552 on 10 CBCs; max 93 ChCBC; 9 NRP 12 Feb.
Hairy Woodpecker: 138 on 10 CBCs; max 25 ScCBC.
N. Flicker: 145 on 10 CBCs; max 30 ChCBC; 5 Jan, 5 Feb reports.
Pileated Woodpecker: 57 on 10 CBCs; max 9 ChCBC; 20 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 28 on 9 CBCs; 31 reports of singles.
Blue Jay: 1137 on 11 CBCs; numbers down from last year.
Am. Crow: max 5921 TCBC; c. 7000 at dusk Colonie 8 Jan (WE).
Fish Crow: 18 on 5 CBCs; 13 TCBC; 7 Jan, 4 Feb reports.
Com. Raven: 13 on 6 CBCs; continues to be widely reported throughout Region.
Horned Lark: 465 on 6 CBCs; max 167 FPCBC; numbers down significantly from last year.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 766 CCCBC; 683 JGCBC; 533 SRCBC; 572 ChCBC; 20 NRP 20 Feb; irruption yr JL.
Tufted Titmouse: max 184 CCCBC; 126 ScCBC; 20 NRP 29 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 87 on 11 CBCs; max 25 JGCBC.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 581 on 11 CBCs; max 89 CCCBC.
Brown Creeper: 63 on 9 CBCs; singing Guilderland 26 Feb (WE).
Carolina Wren: 20 on 6 CBCs; 10 reports of singles, including 1 overwintering Delmar (RB).
Winter Wren: 2 ACCBC; 4 CCCBC; 2 ScCBC; 1 TCBC.
Marsh Wren: 3 CCCBC; 1 Athens 9 Jan (RG).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 33 on 8 CBCs; scarce thru.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 CCCBC; 1 ChCBC.
E. Bluebird: 713 on 11 CBCs; max 155 ChCBC; present in excellent numbers thru.
Hermit Thrush: 1 CCCBC; 1 ScCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 Amsterdam 16 Dec, 15 Jan (TP).
Am. Robin: 1653 on 9 CBCs; max 490 CCCBC; 1000 Livingston 16 Jan (CW, OW).
Gray Catbird: 4 on 4 CBCs; 1 Athens 9 Jan (RG); 1 overwintered Guilderland feeder (WE, NM).
N. Mockingbird: 103 on 11 CBCs; 8 Jan, 3 Feb reports.
European Starling: high count 10,279 SRCBC.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 1 Glens Falls 2 Dec (BBi); 15 WR 2 Dec (WE); 8 Colonie 30 Dec (WL); 3 T Hague 14 Feb (fide LM); 44 Jefferson MONT 26 Feb (AM).
Cedar Waxwing: high counts 200 Glens Falls 2 Dec; 233 SCBC; 107 ChCBC.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 5 ACCBC; 10 CCCBC; 11 Stockport 21 Dec (ADBC); 1 L7 3 Feb (RY).
Palm Warbler: 1 NB 8 Jan (RG).
Com. Yellowthroat: 1 ChCBC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: high counts 304 TCBC; 274 SCBC; 175 ScCBC; numbers down from last year.
Fox Sparrow: 1 Guilderland 31 Jan thru (WE, NM).
Song Sparrow: 82 on 9 CBCs; max 20 ScCBC.
Swamp Sparrow: 5 CCCBC; 1 ChCBC; 1 ScCBC, only reports.
White-throated Sparrow: max 88 CCCBC; 82 ACCBC; 70 ScCBC.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Hillsdale 17 Dec, only report.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 330 ChCBC; 285 CCCBC; 251 TCBC; numbers down from last year.
Lapland Longspur: c. 12 Van Epps Rd. s of Fultonville 9 Feb (Bbo, KB); 5 T FtE 6 Feb (WE), only reports.
Snow Bunting: 2 HFCBC; 20 FtE 9 Jan;

150 SL 9 Jan; 75 Gansevoort 23 Jan; 35-40 perched in tree T Wilton 4 Feb; 92 FtE 6 Feb; 200 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb; 70 T Florida MONT 13 Feb; 400 FtE 17 Feb.
N. Cardinal: high counts 89 SCCBC; 60 TCBC; 14 at feeder Guilderland 25 Jan; 51 L7 3 Feb (RY).

Red-winged Blackbird: 755 on 5 CBCs; arr 2 Slingerlands 26 Feb; 1 singing NRRS 27 Feb.

Com. Grackle: 1 ACCBC; 1 FPCBC; 1 Slingerlands 3 Jan; arr Jefferson MONT 26 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 300+ PP 23 Dec (WL); arr 2 Glenmont 13 Feb.

Pine Grosbeak: 1 Guilderland 31 Jan (WE, NM), only report.

Purple Finch: 34 on 8 CBCs; no Jan, 10 Feb reports.

House Finch: 2249 on 11 CBCs; max 344

ScCBC; 310 TCBC; scarce at feeders.

Red Crossbill: 3 Guilderland 11 Dec-9 Jan (WE, NM).

White-winged Crossbill: 1 Guilderland 1 Dec (WE, NM).

Com. Redpoll: 2730 on 11 CBCs; max 1000 JGCBC; common throughout winter.

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 Guilderland 10 Dec (WE, NM); 1 FPCBC; 1 SRCBC; 2 f Berne 23-28 Dec (KPA).

Pine Siskin: 76 on 7 CBCs; max 45 JGCBC; small numbers thru.

Am. Goldfinch: max 286 ChCBC; 199 ScCBC; good numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: 245 JGCBC; 42 FPCBC; 11 Minerva CBC; 30 Jefferson 23 Jan; other reports of small numbers.

House Sparrow: max 353 HFCBC; 259 SRCBC.

internet: jgraves@skidmore.edu